

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1 1. (currently amended) A method of accessing a first file on a disk system on one  
2 of a plurality of computer systems from a program executing on another of the  
3 plurality of computer systems, wherein:  
4 the plurality of computer systems comprises:
  - 5 a first computer system containing the program communicating through an  
6 API with a first interface system, and
  - 7 a second computer system containing the disk system and a second  
8 interface system for communicating with the first interface system  
9 and for reading from and writing to the disk system;
- 10 the first computer system and the second computer system are heterogeneous  
11 computer systems having different file formats and word structures;
- 12 said method comprising:
  - 13 A) opening a first session from the program via the API through the first interface  
14 system to the second interface system in order to access the first file on the  
15 disk system;
  - 16 B) blocking via the API, the first plurality of records into a first plurality of  
17 blocks wherein the first plurality of blocks are to be written as a portion of  
18 the first file;
  - 19 C) transmitting the first plurality of blocks over the first session from a first one  
20 of the plurality of computer systems to a second one of the plurality of  
21 computer systems;
  - 22 D) unblocking the first plurality of blocks into a second plurality of records on  
23 the second one of the plurality of computer systems; and
  - 24 E) closing the first session after completing the transmitting in step (C).

1    2. (currently amended) The method in claim 1 wherein:  
2        the first computer system is the first of the plurality of computer systems;  
3        the second computer system is the second of the plurality of computer systems;

4                and

5        the method further comprises:

6                F) receiving the first plurality of records via the API from the  
7                        program; and

8                G) writing the second plurality of records to as a portion of the first  
9                        file on the disk system

1    3. (currently amended) The method in claim 1 wherein:  
2        the first computer system is the second of the plurality of computer systems; and  
3        the second computer system is the first of the plurality of computer systems;  
4        the method further comprises:

5                F) reading the first plurality of records from the portion of the first  
6                        file of the disk system; and

7                G) receiving the second plurality of records in the program via the  
8                        API

1    4. (previously amended) The method in claim 1 wherein:  
2        the transmitting in step (C) utilizes a credit based flow control mechanism to flow  
3                        control the first plurality of blocks; and  
4        the credit based flow control mechanism utilizes a block based credit counting  
5                        each of the first plurality of blocks as one credit.

1 5. (currently amended) The method in claim 1 which further comprises:  
2 F) opening a second session from the program via the API through the first  
3 interface system to the second interface system in order to access a second  
4 file on the disk system while the first session is still open;  
5 G) blocking via the API, a third plurality of records into a second plurality of  
6 blocks wherein the second plurality of blocks is to be written as a portion  
7 of the second file;  
8 H) transmitting the second plurality of blocks over the second session from a  
9 third one of the plurality of computer systems to a fourth one of the  
10 plurality of computer systems;  
11 I) unblocking the second plurality of blocks into a fourth plurality of records on  
12 the fourth one of the plurality of computer systems; and  
13 J) closing the second session after completing the transmitting over the second  
14 session in step (H).

1 6. (currently amended) The method in claim 5 wherein:  
2 the first computer system is the first one of the plurality of computer systems and  
3 the third one of the plurality of computer systems;  
4 the second computer system is the second one of the plurality of computer  
5 systems and the fourth one of the plurality of computer systems; and  
6 the method further comprises:  
7 K) receiving the first plurality of records via the API from the  
8 program for transmission over the first session;  
9 L) receiving the third plurality of records via the API from the  
10 program for transmission over the second session;  
11 M) writing the second plurality of records to the portion of the first  
12 file; and  
13 N) writing the fourth plurality of records to the portion of the  
14 second file.

1 7. (currently amended) The method in claim 5 wherein:  
2 the first computer system is the first one of the plurality of computer systems and  
3 the fourth one of the plurality of computer systems;  
4 the second computer system is the second one of the plurality of computer  
5 systems and the third one of the plurality of computer systems; and  
6 the method further comprises:

- 7 K) receiving the first plurality of records via the API from the  
8 program for transmission over the first session;
- 9 L) writing the second plurality of records to the portion of the first  
10 file;
- 11 M) reading the third plurality of records from the portion of the second  
12 file; and
- 13 N) receiving the fourth plurality of records in the program via the API.

1 8. (original) The method in claim 1 wherein:  
2 the first computer system is a mainframe computer system; and  
3 the second computer system is a UNIX based computer system.

1 9. (original) The method in claim 1 wherein:  
2 character data is stored in the first computer system in a first one of a plurality of  
3 character formats;  
4 character data is stored in the second computer system in a second one of a  
5 plurality of character formats; and  
6 the method further comprises:  
7 F) translating at least a portion of each of the records in the first plurality of  
8 blocks from one of the plurality of character formats to another one of the  
9 plurality of character formats.

1 10. (original) The method in claim 1 wherein:  
2 integer data is stored in the first computer system in a first one of a plurality of  
3 integer formats;  
4 integer data is stored in the second computer system in a second one of a plurality  
5 of integer formats; and  
6 the method further comprises:  
7 F) translating at least a portion of each of the records in the first plurality of  
8 blocks from one of the plurality of integer formats to another one of the  
9 plurality of integer formats.

1 11. (currently amended) A data processing system having software stored in a set of  
2 Computer Software Storage Media for accessing a first file on a disk system on  
3 one of a plurality of computer systems from a program executing on another of  
4 the plurality of computer systems, wherein:  
5 the plurality of computer systems comprises:

6 a first computer system containing the program communicating through an  
7 API with a first interface system, and  
8 a second computer system containing the disk system and a second  
9 interface system for communicating with the first interface system  
10 and for reading from and writing to the disk system;

11 the first computer system and the second computer system are heterogeneous  
12 computer systems having different file formats and word structures;  
13 said software comprising:

- 14 A) a set of computer instructions for opening a first session from the program via  
15 the API through the first interface system to the second interface system in  
16 order to access the first file on the disk system;
- 17 B) a set of computer instructions for blocking via the API, the first plurality of  
18 records into a first plurality of blocks wherein the first plurality of blocks  
19 is being written in a portion of the first file;
- 20 C) a set of computer instructions for transmitting the first plurality of blocks over  
21 the first session from a first one of the plurality of computer systems to a  
22 second one of the plurality of computer systems;
- 23 D) a set of computer instructions for unblocking the first plurality of blocks into a  
24 second plurality of records on the second one of the plurality of computer  
25 systems; and
- 26 E) a set of computer instructions for closing the first session after completing the  
27 transmitting in set (C).

- 1 12. (currently amended) The software in claim 11 wherein:  
2 the first computer system is the first of the plurality of computer systems;  
3 the second computer system is the second of the plurality of computer systems;  
4 and  
5 the software further comprises:
  - 6 F) a set of computer instructions for receiving the first plurality of  
7 records via the API from the program; and
  - 8 G) a set of computer instructions for writing the second plurality of  
9 records to the portion of the first file.
- 1 13. (currently amended) The software in claim 11 wherein:  
2 the first computer system is the second of the plurality of computer systems; and  
3 the second computer system is the first of the plurality of computer systems;  
4 the software further comprises:
  - 5 F) a set of computer instructions for reading the first plurality of  
6 records from the portion of the first file; and
  - 7 G) a set of computer instructions for receiving the second plurality of  
8 records in the program via the API.
- 1 14. (previously amended) The software in claim 11 wherein:  
2 the transmitting in set (C) utilizes a credit based flow control mechanism to flow  
3 control the first plurality of blocks; and  
4 the credit based flow control mechanism utilizes a block based credit counting  
5 each of the first plurality of blocks as one credit.

1 15. (currently amended) The software in claim 11 which further comprises:

2 F) a set of computer instructions for opening a second session from the program  
3 via the API through the first interface system to the second interface  
4 system in order to access a second file on the disk system while the first  
5 session is still open;

6 G) a set of computer instructions for blocking via the API, a third plurality of  
7 records into a second plurality of blocks wherein the second plurality of  
8 blocks constitutes a portion of the second file;

9 H) a set of computer instructions for transmitting the second plurality of blocks  
10 over the second session from a third one of the plurality of computer  
11 systems to a fourth one of the plurality of computer systems;

12 I) a set of computer instructions for unblocking the second plurality of blocks  
13 into a fourth plurality of records on the fourth one of the plurality of  
14 computer systems; and

15 J) a set of computer instructions for closing the second session after completing  
16 the transmitting over the second session in set (H).

1 16. (currently amended) The software in claim 15 wherein:

2 the first computer system is the first one of the plurality of computer systems and  
3 the third one of the plurality of computer systems;

4 the second computer system is the second one of the plurality of computer  
5 systems and the fourth one of the plurality of computer systems; and

6 the software further comprises:

7 K) a set of computer instructions for receiving the first plurality of  
8 records via the API from the program for transmission over the  
9 first session;

10 L) a set of computer instructions for receiving the third plurality of  
11 records via the API from the program for transmission over the  
12 second session;

13 M) a set of computer instructions for writing the second plurality of  
14 records to the portion of the first file; and

15 N) a set of computer instructions for writing the fourth plurality of  
16 records to the portion of the second file.

1. 17. (currently amended) The software in claim 15 wherein:  
2 the first computer system is the first one of the plurality of computer systems and  
3 the fourth one of the plurality of computer systems;  
4 the second computer system is the second one of the plurality of computer  
5 systems and the third one of the plurality of computer systems; and  
6 the software further comprises:

- 7 K) a set of computer instructions for receiving the first plurality of  
8 records via the API from the program for transmission over the  
9 first session;
- 10 L) a set of computer instructions for writing the second plurality of  
11 records to the portion of the first file;
- 12 M) a set of computer instructions for reading the third plurality of  
13 records from the portion of the second file; and
- 14 N) a set of computer instructions for receiving the fourth plurality of  
15 records in the program via the API.

1 18. (original) The software in claim 11 wherein:  
2 the first computer system is a mainframe computer system; and  
3 the second computer system is a UNIX based computer system.

1 19. (previously amended) The software in claim 11 wherein:  
2 character data is stored in the first computer system in a first one of a plurality of  
3 character formats;  
4 character data is stored in the second computer system in a second one of a  
5 plurality of character formats; and  
6 the software further comprises:  
7 F) a set of computer instructions for translating at least a portion of each of the  
8 records in the first plurality of blocks from one of the plurality of character  
9 formats to another one of the plurality of character formats.

1 20. (previously amended) The software in claim 11 wherein:

2 integer data is stored in the first computer system in a first one of a plurality of

3 integer formats;

4 integer data is stored in the second computer system in a second one of a plurality

5 of integer formats; and

6 the software further comprises:

7 F) a set of computer instructions for translating at least a portion of each of the

8 records in the first plurality of blocks from one of the plurality of integer

9 formats to another one of the plurality of integer formats.

1 21. (currently amended) A computer readable Non-Volatile Storage Medium  
2 encoded with software for accessing a first file on a disk system on one of a  
3 plurality of computer systems from a program executing on another of the  
4 plurality of computer systems, wherein:  
5 the plurality of computer systems comprises:  
6       a first computer system containing the program communicating through an  
7            API with a first interface system, and  
8       a second computer system containing the disk system and a second  
9            interface system for communicating with the first interface system  
10            and for reading from and writing to the disk system;  
11       the first computer system and the second computer system are heterogeneous  
12            computer systems having different file formats and word structures;  
13       said software comprising:  
14       A) a set of computer instructions for opening via the API, a first session from the  
15            program through the first interface system to the second interface system  
16            in order to access the first file on the disk system;  
17       B) a set of computer instructions blocking via the API, the first plurality of  
18            records into a first plurality of blocks wherein the first plurality of blocks  
19            is to be written as a portion of the first file;  
20       C) a set of computer instructions for transmitting the first plurality of blocks over  
21            the first session from a first one of the plurality of computer systems to a  
22            second one of the plurality of computer systems;  
23       D) a set of computer instructions for unblocking the first plurality of blocks into a  
24            second plurality of records on the second one of the plurality of computer  
25            systems; and  
26       E) a set of computer instructions for closing the first session after completing the  
27            transmitting in set (C).

1 22. (currently amended) A data processing system having software stored in a set of  
2 Computer Software Storage Media for accessing a first file on a disk system on  
3 one of a plurality of computer systems from a program executing on another of  
4 the plurality of computer systems, wherein:  
5 the plurality of computer systems comprises:

6 a first computer system containing the program communicating through an  
7 API with a first interface system, and

8 a second computer system containing the disk system and a second  
9 interface system for communicating with the first interface system  
10 and for reading from and writing to the disk system;

11 the first computer system and the second computer system are heterogeneous  
12 computer systems having different file formats and word structures;  
13 said software comprising:

- 14 A) means for opening via the API, a first session from the program through the  
15 first interface system to the second interface system in order to access the  
16 first file on the disk system;
- 17 B) means for blocking via the API, the first plurality of records into a first  
18 plurality of blocks for writing in a portion of the first file;
- 19 C) means for transmitting the first plurality of blocks over the first session from a  
20 first one of the plurality of computer systems to a second one of the  
21 plurality of computer systems;
- 22 D) means for unblocking the first plurality of blocks into a second plurality of  
23 records on the second one of the plurality of computer systems; and
- 24 E) means for closing the first session after completing the transmitting in means  
25 (D).